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teaching be oral or by published writings, one of the indispensable requisites for success is the power of making himself thoroughly and easily understood by one who is unacquainted with the subject taught. With this power one can scarcely fail of a fair degree of success; without it the greatest talents and attainments may come to naught. It may be said, indeed, that this power is equally indispensable in a teacher of any other subject, and literally, of course, this is true; but in most subjects the difficulty of making one's self understood is believed to be less great than in law, and hence the power of doing so less rare. This power Professor Parsons possessed in a very eminent degree. He had, indeed, a positive genius for simple and lucid statements. Whatever he clearly understood himself he seldom failed to make perfectly intelligible to his hearers or readers, even if they were laymen; hence his lectures and his books were always popular. Nor need it be wondered at that one whose genius did not specially fit him for the law should have made so great a figure in it; for those who have a special genius for law are seldom successful in teaching it, except to those who have already obtained a considerable mastery of it. Sir Edward Coke, for example, is the greatest name in the English law, and yet his writings are to the tyro not merely unintelligible, but repulsive. On the other hand, Sir William Blackstone never made a great figure in the practice of his profession, and, though he was made a judge, he never distinguished himself in that capacity; and yet his Commentaries have been more read and more admired than any other law book in the English language. The secret of Blackstone's great success was that he excelled all other legal writers in his style and in his mode of treating his subject; and the merits of Professor Parsons were not unlike those of Blackstone. It may be added that Professor Parsons was a great admirer of Blackstone, and probably there is no legal author with whom he would have been so proud to be compared.

EDWARD REYNOLDS, M.D.

EDWARD REYNOLDS was born the 28th of February, 1793, in Hawkins Street, Boston. His father was Edward Reynolds, a merchant of Boston, whose wife, his mother, was Deborah, daughter of Samuel and Deborah Belcher. There were five other children, two sons and three daughters.

The subject of this notice was trained for college principally at the Boston Latin School, under Masters Hunt and William Biglow.

Among his schoolmates were Harrison Gray Otis, Nathaniel L. Frothingham, and Edward Everett.

He entered Harvard College in 1807, at the age of fourteen, and graduated in 1811. After graduating, he tried his father's counting-room for a few months, but finding himself not inclined to business pursuits, gave them up and began the study of medicine with Dr. John Collins Warren. From 1815 to 1818 he continued his medical studies in London and in Paris. He worked very hard, as is shown by the eight or ten manuscript volumes of lectures copied out carefully, and all carefully indexed. He was conspicuous by his stature of six feet four inches, and the story is told that when a Briton was expatiating on the degeneracy and diminished size of the Anglo-Saxon in America, he and his companion, General McNeil, also a man of very large development, rose and introduced themselves as examples of the degeneracy spoken of.

Having finished his studies in Europe and having been admitted as Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, he returned to Boston in 1818, and established himself there as a practitioner. His favorite branch was surgery, but his attention was called to one of its specialties by a particular circumstance. He found, on his return, that his father, now sixty years old, was the subject of cataract in both eyes, upon which he performed his first operation, confidently and successfully. This happy event naturally turned his attention to diseases of the eye, and led others who were the subjects of them to apply to him. Thus, though he never chose to be called an oculist, he was largely consulted in that class of affections. Being impressed with their frequency, and the difficulty of treating them properly among the poor, he in conjunction with the late Dr. John Jeffries, set on foot, and finally succeeded in permanently establishing, the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, now one of our most valued public institutions. To this infirmary he devoted many years of faithful service, and when, in the course of time, it passed into the care of younger hands, he still retained all his interest in its welfare, and watched with honest pride its growth and prosperity.

In the year 1837, during the absence of Dr. Warren, the Professor of Anatomy and Surgery in Harvard University, Dr. Reynolds delivered the course on Anatomy, having had a very limited time for preparation, but performing the task in a most acceptable manner. At about the same time he joined Dr. David Humphreys Storer in a plan for giving a more complete course of private instruction than had hitherto been known in Boston. They associated with themselves Dr.

Jacob Bigelow and Dr. O. W. Holmes, and afterwards Dr. J. B. S. Jackson and Dr. Henry J. Bigelow. This school had a long and successful career, until its place was taken by the summer medical school of Harvard University.

No one could look on Dr. Reynolds without being struck by his majestic physical aspect. By many he was thought to resemble Washington as we see him in portraits, but Washington with almost colossal proportions. So remarkable an outward presentment would not unnaturally lead many to overlook other gifts, which were exceptional, and worthy of being noted. He had a natural artistic talent, which showed itself in the sketches he made in his note-books,—a talent his fellow-students and friends might never have suspected if some accident had not betrayed it, as he made no parade of any of his accomplishments. He had a strong literary taste also, and entered upon the study of the German language by making a careful translation of *Faust* into blank verse as his first effort.

He was a man of a most cheerful and delightful disposition, full of pleasantry, but thoughtful as well as hopeful, a friend whom it was a happiness to meet, and from whom, on parting, one brought away the remembrance of cheering tones and smiles that made life look brighter. His conversation was lively and entertaining; he was fond of anecdotes and told them well, and his honest, hearty laugh carried with it better credentials of goodness than many a man's confession of faith.

As I last remember him, he was on the verge of ninety years. His ponderous frame was a great burden for such extreme old age, and his movements were somewhat difficult and feeble. His imperfect hearing rendered conversation with him somewhat difficult, but his talk was vivacious and interesting to a remarkable degree.

In his early years Dr. Reynolds listened to the preaching of Mr. Buckminster and of Dr. Channing. He joined the Episcopal Church later in life, and remained in communion with that Church until the time of his death, which occurred on the morning of Christmas Day, 1881.